REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are currently pending in this application. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of canceled claim 4 and has amended 2 for clarity, with no new matter is added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated Microsoft Word 2000, copyright 1983-1999. In support of this position, which regard to claim 1, the Examiner states that "Microsoft Word teaches a method of printing postal indicia on a custom sized envelope comprising: … rendering a postal indicia in accordance with the selected width and height of said customer sized envelop (see 'Preview' picture of envelope with postal indicia in 'Envelope Options' window of Fig. 1 of this action); and printing the postal indicia on said customer sized envelope (see Figure 2 of this action)."

Applicant has carefully reviewed this ground of rejection and respectfully submits that in fact, Microsoft Word 2000, copyright 1983-1999, as it existed prior to this present application, did not in fact disclose the essential features of "rendering a postal indicia in accordance with the selected width and height of said custom sized envelope, the postage indicia comprising machine readable data representing postage value; and printing the postal indicia on said custom sized envelope..."

The thrust of the invention is to provide a system to allow a user to print, during the printing of information on the envelope, postage indicia on custom sized envelopes to permit a

user to forego the need for convention USPS provided postage stamps or metered postage. The specification makes it clear that the term "postage indicia" includes machine readable data, e.g. two-dimensional bar code representing postage value. See page 5, lines 28-32, otherwise, the system does not amount to much more than simply preparing conventional envelopes that happen to also include a Postnet barcode and a FIM.

In contrast, all that is shown in Figure 1 of the cited Microsoft Word 2000 reference is a preview screen shot of the program where the options include a mailing address, a return address, a POSTNET barcode, and a FIM mark being shown. A black box in the upper right hand corner is intended to indicate the placement of a postage stamp or postage meter stamp of some sort, the application of which would take place after printing of the envelope. Nowhere in the cited reference is there any disclosure of machine readable data representing postage value or input for essential information needed to determine the postage value to be printed on the mailpiece. This essential information includes the mailpiece weight, class, and special services (e.g. return receipt requested). Without this information being provided, there is no way to accomplish the steps of "rendering a postal indicia in accordance with the selected width and height of said custom sized envelope, the postage indicia comprising a two dimensional bar code; and printing the postal indicia on said custom sized envelope.."

In addressing claim 4, the limitations of which are now in claim 1, The Examiner states that "Microsoft Word also teaches wherein [sic] printing a postal indicia on the custom sized

envelope comprises printing a two dimensional bar code onto the custom sized envelope see 'Preview' picture of envelope with postal indicia in 'Envelop Options window of Figure 1 of this action)." Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited reference, and reiterates that nothing of the sort is disclosed. Instead, what is shown is an outline of where the stamp is to be later applied (i.e., the upper right hand corner of the envelope.) This does not amount to a disclosure or teaching or suggestion of the invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Microsoft Word 2000 reference does not anticipates claim 1 or any of the claims 2, 3, and 5-9 dependent thereon. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection is therefore respectfully solicited. Applicant also does not believe that the Microsoft Word 2000 reference teaches or suggests the claimed inventions.

The Examiner next rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word in view of De Barber et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,152,122. The Examiner states that the Microsoft Word references teaches all that is claimed in the rejection of claim 1, except wherein determining the size of the envelope comprises determine the size of the envelope by placing on a template. Applicant respectfully submits that for the reasons that claim 1 is not disclosed by Microsoft Word, neither is claim 2.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3 and 5-9 are in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any

questions, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By _____
Daniel R. Kimbell
Reg. No. 34,849
626/795-9900

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